

House International Relations Committee
Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats
Statement of Chairman Elton Gallegly
Markup of H. Res. 529 (Croatia)
November 16, 2005

The final piece of legislation on the agenda today is the consideration of House Resolution 529, a resolution I introduced that supports the integration of Croatia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Since achieving their independence in 1992, the people of Croatia have built a democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and a free market economy. In addition, they have sent troops to Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led security force in support of the war on terrorism and have provided strong support to U.S. nonproliferation efforts.

House Resolution 529 commends Croatia's significant progress in strengthening its democratic institutions, its support for the global war on terrorism and its ability to make significant contributions to NATO. The resolution also calls on Croatia to continue its full cooperation in locating and transferring any Croatian war criminals to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Finally, the resolution states that once it meets NATO guidelines and criteria for membership, Croatia should be invited to join NATO.

I urge the passage of House Resolution 529. I will now turn to Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.